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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEApplicant: Yoko IKEDA *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/452,149RCE

Filed: 1 December 1999

For: INSPECTING METHOD, INSPECTING SYSTEM, AND
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Art Unit: 2623

Examiner: Virginia M. KIBLER

Conf. No.: 9942

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6-17-04**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT****Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents

POB 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

27 May 2004

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed 27 August 2003 in connection with the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and remarks.

In accordance with the revised format of the manner of making amendments under 37 CFR §1.121 as set forth in the Final Rule effective 30 July 2003, each section of amendment herein begins on a new page, and changes are shown by strike-through (or double brackets where appropriate) and underlining to indicate deletions and additions, respectively. A complete listing of all claims ever presented in the application is given with the current status of each claim, and only the text of all pending and withdrawn claims is presented in full, with those not being amended herein being presented in clean version.